GEORGE E. STEWART
5889 FOREST LANE
INDIANAPOLIS 20, INDIANA

October 29th 1960

Mrs. Robert I Clark:

Enclosed you will find the $10.00 check.

I did not know that my grandfather's picture (or rather portrait) was in the Memorial Hall. In fact, I did not know you had any hall of this type. When I am in Terre Haute again, I will visit it.

But now, I am not interested in his civil war record, as you mention. I have already much information regards him and his civil war record, and I doubt that you will dig up any new on it.

But I want to find out about my greatgrandmother, where she was born, what her maiden name was, who her father was, when she was born and where, and when she died, and where she is buried. All I know is that her name was Elizabeth Stewart.

I would also like to know more about Matthew Stewart, her husband, before he landed in Terre Haute, which seems to be about 1828... He died in 1845 so the record at the cemetary says. I want to know his place of birth, who his father was.....

I feel that these things will be revealed in his or her obituaries. Maybe you can find them...

Sincerely,

George E. Stewart

November 6, 1960

Mr.George E.Stewart
5889 Forest Lane
Indianapolis 20, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of October 29th with the ten dollar retainer fee. Unfortunately I have already spent over nine hours on your problem with mostly negative results.

There are 4 years missing in the microfilm newspaper files at the Library - naturally during the period needed for an obit for Matthew Stewart - May 13,1845.

There are 18 months missing during the period needed for a possible obit for Mary Jane McGregor - Nov.13,1866.

I also found the T.H.Express obit for Robert Reed Stewart - there is no other newspaper available for that.

Next, I searched the T.H.City Directories from the first one published 1858 thru the 1868/1869 combined one. In 1858 here are the Stewarts listed:

Stewart, Chas. boot maker for T.P.Murray
Stewart, Geo. boat builder, Chestnut cor 2nd
Stewart House, J.W.Stewart, prop, cor 2 & Wabash
Stewart, James W., prop.Stewart House
Stewart, James H., railroadman, 6th s of Laf.
Stewart, Mathew,(colored)barber, Buntin's Hotel
Stewart, Wm.H., sheriff, Market w s cor Walnut

The next available year was 1863 which listed "Elizabeth Stewart, Prop, Stewart House."

In the 1868/1869 volume Elizabeth was not listed - "Thomas McKee, prop, Stewart House." Robert R.Stewart lived at 7th & Ohio sts. This info does not prove anything except that sometime after 1863 Elizabeth Stewart either died (which was very likely considering her probable age - if her husband was 61 at his death in 1845 and she were the same age, she would have been 79 in 1863) or she sold or otherwise disposed of the business.

There is conflicting info concerning exactly <u>when</u> Matthew came to Terre Haute from Parke County.

Condit's HISTORY OF TERRE HAUTE, p.75 - lists "Stewart House with Matthew Stewart as proprietor in 1819."

Several sources state that in 1827 he was one of the subscribers to the Old Brick School House.

In 1828 its a matter of record that he purchased Lot 70 in T.H.

In the local 1829 census he was listed as head of a household of nine - 6 males and 2 females. The 1835 and 1837 lists also include him.

In a list of important fires in this city, I found that the Stewart House burned in 1841. It was obviously rebuilt soon.

In Beckwith's HISTORY OF VIGO & PARKE COUNTIES, p.503 - is a biographical sketch of "W.H.Stewart, farmer, Heckland, (this is Otter creek Township, Vigo Co.) was born in Carroll County, Ind. in 1819 and came with his parents to Parke County, Ind. in 1826 and in 1829 removed to Terre Haute, Vigo County, where his parents resided until their deaths"....the rest is not pertinent to our search but interesting.

On p.102 in Beckwith - the Parke Co.section - I found that "John and Geo.Stewart of Newport" had a store

On p. 56 - this reference to Matthew Stewart: "In 1829 the county commissioners let the contract for a new court house to Matthew Stewart..." This structure was completed in 1832, so he must have either lived in Parke Co., or commuted from T.H. to oversee the job; at least we know he was a brick layer.

Matthew owned a farm ten miles north of T.H., which was later purchased by his son, Wm.H., the sheriff.

The Stewart House was located on InLot #174 of Original Town.

If you think it might help, I will put a small item in the local newspapers asking for info concerning the descendants of Matthew and Elizabeth. I do that occasionally as a public service of the local Historical Society. Since I write for the newspaper(the historical column on Sundays) they are most cooperative.

The next time you are in T.H. and want to see the portrait of your grandfather in Memorial Hall (across the street from the court house, the oldest business building in T.H.) call Mr. Shake, 219 Ohio, H-9280; or his home, 1907 3rd Ave.,C-7386. He will let you in by appointment as the building is not open to the public.

I know you are disappointed not to find the info you are seeking, but I have done my best with the data available. Let me know if there is anything else.

Sincerely yours,